

**PERMANENT VOLUNTARY SURRENDER  
CHRISTOGONUS CHIKWE  
LP50997/MSLP (FL RN9536719)**



Gary N. Hicks, MS, RN, CEN, CNE  
President  
Maryland Board of Nursing  
4140 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215-2254

**RE: Christogonus Chikwe, LP50997/MSLP (FL RN9536719)  
Permanent Voluntary Surrender of Licensed Practical Nurse License & Multistate  
Licensure Privilege to Practice Registered Nursing in the State of Maryland**

Dear Mr. Hicks,

I agree to permanently voluntarily surrender my Licensed Practical Nurse (“LPN”) license, License Number **LP50997**, and my **Multistate Licensure Privilege (“MSLP”) – FL RN9536719**, to practice as a registered nurse (“RN”) in the State of Maryland under the Nurse Licensure Compact. By permanently voluntarily surrendering my Maryland LPN license and MSLP, I understand that I may not engage in the practice of licensed practical nursing and/or registered nursing with or without compensation, as defined in the Maryland Nurse Practice Act (“the Act”), Md. Code Ann., Health Occupations Article (“Health Occ.”) §§ 8-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol.) and the Board’s regulations, Code of Maryland Regulations (“COMAR”) 10.27.01 *et seq.*

My practice was brought to the attention of the Maryland Board of Nursing (“the Board”) as follows:

On or about July 18, 2013, I submitted an Application for Exam of LPN License (“LPN Application”) to the Board. On the LPN Application, the Director of Nursing Program (“Director”) certified that I received a diploma from LPN School,<sup>1</sup> attended from January 23, 2012 to May 7, 2013, and that the LPN program was approved by the Virginia Board of Nursing (“VA Board”) at the time I graduated. I signed the LPN Application and affirmed that the contents of the document were true and correct.

My Official Transcript from LPN School indicates that I attended the school from January 23, 2012 to May 17, 2013 and completed a total of 1700 contact hours, including 400 clinical hours in Fundamentals of Nursing, medical-surgical nursing, geriatric nursing, maternity nursing, pediatric nursing and mental health nursing at several “clinical agencies” in Virginia and Washington, D.C.

On or about September 11, 2013, I was issued a Maryland LPN license, which expired on December 28, 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> On July 21, 2010, the Virginia Board of Nursing approved a Consent Order, signed by Director, which ordered LPN School placed on Conditional Provisional Approval. On May 15, 2012, the VA Board approved a Consent Order, signed by Director, which ordered the withdrawal of approval of LPN School to operate as a practical nursing education program and further ordered that LPN School shall cease operations no later than June 30, 2013 and shall not admit any new or transfer students.

## CHRISTOGONUS CHIKWE – LP50997 & MSLP: PERMANENT VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

Board investigators verified that none of the “clinical agencies” identified in the LPN School transcript had a contract with LPN School to offer clinical training. During my interview with Board investigators, I admitted that I transferred to LPN School in November 2012; only completed three of the twenty-one courses listed on the transcript; and that I did not attend any of the clinical courses listed. I acknowledged completing and signing the LPN Application and that I did not review the certification completed by Director.<sup>2</sup>

I attended RN School<sup>3</sup> in Florida and, in June 2020, obtained my Florida RN multistate license, license number RN9536719.

On November 30, 2021, the Board issued an Order for Summary Suspension of Licensed Practical Nurse License and Multi-state Licensure Privilege (“Order of Summary Suspension”), which ordered the immediate suspension of my LPN license and MSLP. After a show cause hearing held on December 15, 2021, the Board issued an Order Continuing the Summary Suspension of LPN License & Multi-state Licensure Privilege, on December 16, 2021.

On November 30, 2021, the Board issued a Notice of Agency Action – Under the Maryland Nurse Practice Act (“Charges”), charging my LPN license with violations under Health Occ. § 8-316 (a) (1) “Fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain a license for the applicant or for another”; (25) “Engages in conduct that violates the professional code of ethics,” *to wit*, COMAR 10.27.19.02 B. (1) “A nurse may not, when acting in the capacity or identity of a licensed nurse: Knowingly participate in or condone dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation”; (30) “Violates regulations adopted by the Board or an order from the Board”; *to wit*, COMAR 10.27.01.05 B. “An applicant for the licensed practical nurse licensure examination shall: (1) Meet all requirements for a high school diploma or its equivalent and complete satisfactorily and meet all requirements for a diploma from: (b) A licensed practical nursing education program in any other state, territory, or country determined by the Board to be substantially equivalent<sup>4</sup> to the

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<sup>2</sup> On or about July 8, 2021, in the U.S. District Court of Maryland, Director was indicted on charges of Conspiracy to Commit Health Care Fraud; Conspiracy to Commit False Statements Relating to Health Care Matters and False Statements Relating to Health Care Matters. According to the Criminal Complaint, Director conspired with two other individuals and submitted false statements relating to health care matters by working together to sell fraudulent transcripts and diplomas that indicate that various individuals completed necessary courses and clinical hours to obtain nursing degrees and coached these unqualified individuals to pass the nursing board exam.

<sup>3</sup> RN School is not on the Board’s approved list of out-of-state RN schools.

<sup>4</sup> COMAR 10.27.01.01 C. provides: “Substantially equivalent” means a registered nursing or licensed practical nursing education program that:

(1) Contains theoretical learning experiences and related clinical learning experiences that include direct patient care within various settings consistent with program objectives, outcomes, or competencies conducted either concurrently with or after the theoretical learning experience; and

(2) Meets the curriculum requirement for Maryland schools of nursing at the time of the applicant’s graduation, including, but not limited to:

(c) Didactic and clinical instruction in nursing care of families and clients throughout the life span in a variety of care settings requiring nursing measures appropriate for: ...

(d) Didactic and clinical instructional content that includes, but is not limited to, the areas of:

(i) Medical and surgical nursing;

(ii) Maternal and child health;

(iii) Psychiatric nursing; and

(iv) Geriatric nursing;

**CHRISTOGONUS CHIKWE – LP50997 & MSLP: PERMANENT VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**

licensed practical nursing education programs approved in this State at the time of the applicant’s graduation.”

The Charges additionally charged my MSLP with violations under Health Occ. § 8-316 (a) (10) “Has violated any provision of this title”, *to wit*, § 8-316 (a) (1), (25) underlying charge COMAR 10.27.19.02 B (1), and (30) underlying charge COMAR 10.27.01.05 B (1) (b).

In lieu of proceeding to an evidentiary hearing on the Charges and Order for Summary Suspension issued on November 30, 2021, I agree to the **PERMANENT VOLUNTARY SURRENDER** of my Maryland LPN license and my MSLP to practice as an RN in the State of Maryland. I agree the Board has enough evidence to prove by a preponderance of the evidence the above violations cited in the Charges and the merits of the Order for Summary Suspension, and may sanction my LPN license and MSLP accordingly, pursuant to Health Occ. § 8-316 and COMAR 10.27.26. I understand that, by executing this Permanent Voluntary Surrender, I am waiving the right, now and in the future, to any evidentiary hearing at which I would have the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf, and to contest the facts summarized in this Permanent Voluntary Surrender, and at which I would have the right to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by law, including the right to appeal.

In executing this agreement to permanently surrender my LPN license and MSLP, I agree that I will never be eligible for reinstatement of my LPN license and/or MSLP in the State of Maryland.

I understand that this Permanent Voluntary Surrender shall become a **PUBLIC RECORD** and shall become effective on the date of the Board’s acceptance of the Permanent Voluntary Surrender. I agree that this Permanent Voluntary Surrender may be released or published by the Board as a final decision and order on the Board’s website, and as otherwise permitted under the Public Information Act, Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 *et. seq.* (2019 Repl. Vol.). I expressly consent to the publication of this Permanent Voluntary Surrender, including any and all information that is protected from disclosure under federal and state law.

I acknowledge that I may not rescind this Permanent Voluntary Surrender in part or in its entirety for any reason whatsoever. I have been given an opportunity to consult with an attorney before signing this Permanent Voluntary Surrender of my LPN license and MSLP in Maryland. I fully understand the nature of the violations against my Maryland LPN license and MSLP and fully understand the terms of this Permanent Voluntary Surrender. I have voluntarily, knowingly and freely chosen to submit this Permanent Voluntary Surrender.

Sincerely,



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**CHRISTOGONUS CHIKWE**  
**LP50997/MSLP (FL RN9536719)**

